

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 remain pending in the application.

Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kafuku et al., (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0041439, hereinafter "Kafuku"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is an object of the presently claimed embodiment to provide a carrier mounting structure wherein knobs are formed integrally with a lower frame of a carrier so that a bumper cover is fixed to the knobs, thereby decreasing the number of steps of an overall assembly process.

To achieve the above-noted object, a carrier mounting structure of the present embodiment, as recited in amended claim 1, includes, inter alia, a carrier provided in front of an engine compartment of a car body, that fixes electric components of a car, a bumper cover located below the carrier, that absorbs impact generated in a collision of the car, and a plurality of knobs extending from a lower surface of the carrier, and connected to the bumper cover. Further, the knobs are formed integrally and in one piece with the carrier.

The Kafuku reference cited to support the rejection does not disclose such a combination of features.

The Examiner appears to assert that the Kafuku reference discloses a carrier 1, a bumper cover 4a located below the carrier, and a plurality of knobs 1c extending from a

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lower surface of the carrier and connected to bumper cover, wherein the knobs are formed integrally and in one piece with the carrier in Figs. 1 and 2.

However, Applicant notes that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the bracket 4 of the Kafuku device is not provided below the carrier. Rather, in the Kafuku reference, the bracket 4 is provided by the carrier. Further, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the lower beam portion 1c is a single piece, not a plurality of knobs as recited in claim 1.

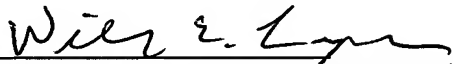
Thus, Kafuku does not disclose each and every feature recited in claim 1, and thus cannot anticipate at least claim 1 of the present application.

Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance in view of the above-noted remarks, and claim 2 is submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of its dependence from a shown to be allowable base claim and also based upon the recitation of other features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejection of claim 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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